

CAMBRIA IRON COMPANY, PATTERN SHOP  
(Bethlehem Steel Company, Carpenter's Shop)  
Cambria Iron Works  
Lower Works  
Johnstown  
Cambria County  
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-109-B

HAER  
PA  
11-JOTO  
135B-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Location: Lower Works, Johnstown, Cambria  
County, Pennsylvania

Quad: Johnstown, Pennsylvania

UTM: 17 E.676310 N. 4466950

Date of Construction: ca. 1870

Fabricator: unknown

Present Owner: Bethlehem Steel Corporation

Present Use: Carpenter's shop

Significance: The building features a distinctive  
mansard roof composed of timber  
rafters covered with an asphaltic  
material. Many of the original  
windows and decorative brick window  
surrounds may be seen inside.  
Pattern-makers lathe (ca. 1880)  
survives.

Historian: Gray Fitzsimons

Project Information:

The results of the study of Cambria County were published in 1990: Fitzsimons, Gray, editor, Blair County and Cambria County, Pennsylvania: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites (Washington, D.C.: America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP) and HABS/HAER, National Park Service). The contents of the publication were transmitted to the Library of Congress as individual reports. Research notes, field photos and copies of historic photos collected during the project were transmitted to the AIHP Collection, Special Collections, Stapleton Library, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA 15705.

## HISTORY

Around 1870 the Cambria Iron Company erected a two-story Pattern Shop adjacent to the Foundry . It originally measured 110' x 50' and contained a distinctive mansard roof covered with slate. The machinery inside, including saws, planers, sanders, and lathes, was powered by a central line shaft with belts connected to the individual machines. The patterns were used for castings in the adjacent foundry that serviced the iron works. Nearby, a series of two-story timber-frame buildings, containing brick nogging, were erected in the 1880s and served as pattern storage houses until the 1920s, when they were demolished. The only major additions to the Pattern Shop occurred in 1890 when Cambria Iron built a two-story, gable-roofed addition to the north, along with a three-story, brick, fire-hose tower. By 1893 the second story of the northern addition was in use and contained a circular saw, a band saw, a 12" lathe, and a 6" lathe. A central line shaft, extending along a north-south axis, powered this machinery. Currently, the Pattern Shop is used for carpentry work and contains electrically powered machinery.

## SOURCES

Cambria Iron Company. "Arrangement of Machinery in North Wing, Second Floor of Pattern Shop; August 14, 1893," original drawing in possession of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, Engineering Division, Johnstown.

Holley, A.L. and Smith, Lenox. "American Iron and Steel Works: Works of the Cambria Iron Company," Engineering: An Illustrated Weekly Journal, Vol. 26, (July 12 1878), 21-24.

"Key Plan, Johnstown Plants: February 16, 1923; revised January 26, 1927, March 29, 1930, and February 13, 1939," (copy available at the Canal Museum, Center for Canal History and Technology, Easton, Pennsylvania).

Sanborn Map Company. Johnstown, Pennsylvania, New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1891 and 1911.

Tax Assessment Records for Millville Borough, Cambria County, for year 1871 and 1875, available at the Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.